

Dear Conservation Commissioners,

The Town of Amherst (the Town) has received a \$36,100 grant from the General Grant Program of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) to support the study of the Fearing Brook. As you know, the Town in partnership with Amherst College and the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, is planning to study and improve the water quality of the Fearing Brook, a tributary to the Fort River.

The funds from the MET grant will enable the Town to achieve its goals of assessing the current water quality of the brook and identifying contaminant sources, evaluating the results of the assessment and determining the best remedial strategy for the brook.

MET grants support projects that protect and enhance water resources across the state of Massachusetts. According to MET Program Director Bill Hinkley, MET will provide roughly \$429,000 in grants to thirteen organizations this year, thanks to motorists who choose to purchase one of MET's specialty license plates. "Trust plates, including our signature Whale Plate, are the only specialty plates that exclusively fund environmental initiatives," said Hinkley. "When you purchase a specialty plate from the Registry of Motor Vehicles the \$40 specialty plate fee is donated to the Trust to fund water-focused environmental programs."

Supporting the environmental programs funded by the Trust in your community is easy, choose one of three environmental plates (two are shown below) when you purchase a new car or renew your registration with the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The standard registration fee for a Massachusetts plate is \$60.00. The special plate fee is an additional \$40.00 (\$28.00 is tax-deductible; \$12.00 is to manufacture the plate). The total first time cost of a Specialty Plate is \$100.00. There is a renewal fee of \$100.00 every two years.

Visit your local Registry of Motor Vehicles or order a plate on line at <https://secure.rmv.state.ma.us/apphome/Default.aspx?AppId=SPCLPLT>.

